

Seyyah



Arda Yurdusev

Seyyah

Seyyah represents a three-part orchestra piece with each instalment, focusing on a different orchestration and concept that in the end; forms the basis behind the idea of Seyyah. By definition, Seyyah is the ancient Arabic word dedicated to a traveler, a voyager. They used to be explorers of unknown realms, merchants of leading trade routes and writers of many diaries that shine light on uncharted lands. These travelers often lacked the sense of belonging to a certain place and had trouble identifying with a certain society. Due to constant exposures to different cultures, I have also lived with this problematic from the very beginning of my youth and as a result, it shaped my character as someone without the sense of attachment to any society or place; which you may also call as a Seyyah. Within each instalment, one can find a different piece of my sound world. In a way, one might see the Seyyah trilogy as my musical auto-biography.

- 9 September 2018 -

Seyyah



II

for sinfonietta

Instrumentation

for sinfonietta

Flute
Oboe
Clarinet (in B flat)
Bassoon

Horn (in F)
Trumpet (in B flat, C)
Trombone
Tuba

Percussion*

Grand Piano

Violin I
Violin II
Violas
Violoncello
Contrabass

Seyyah

II

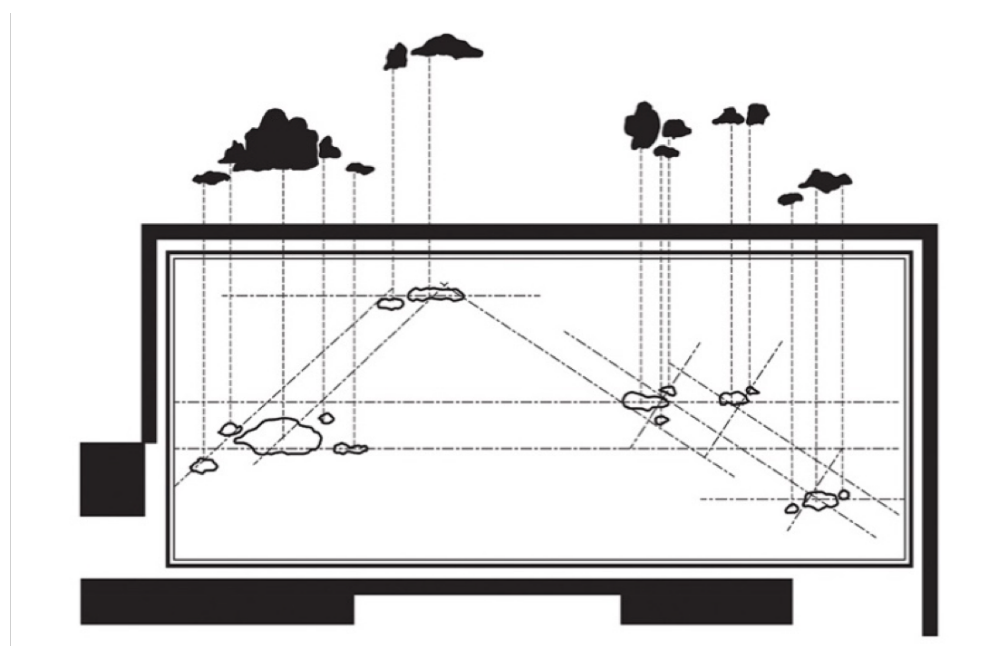
Written for a chamber orchestra consisting of 15 parts, this piece marks the second instalment of **Seyyah** trilogy. The piece focuses on several individual concepts and various extra musical ideologies. The musical form and the flow of time is based on, surely one of the most fascinating and pure rock gardens in Zen Buddhism; Ryōan-ji. Although built as a residence during Heian Japan, the site later transformed into a temple complex by a member of the shogunate in Muromachi Period. The rock garden is widely regarded as one of the greatest examples of its kind and praised by masses, even the likes of John Cage which also had a special connection with the garden.

Zen gardens are in its simplest form, made up of various rock formations, white gravel and moss around the rock formations which is the case with Ryōan-ji. White gravel represents the water and it is regularly raked by monks to represent the ripples of ocean. Rocks are placed very carefully within the gravel to represent various land formations. Ryōan-ji rock garden consists of 15 rocks with different sizes and shapes placed in five groups paired as; one group of 5 stones, two groups of 3 stones and two groups of 2 stones. These groups are resting inside a rectangle garden full of white gravel with each of them placed at an intersection of two or more diagonals of an imaginary heptagon. Although the garden is meant to be viewed from the hojo, which is situated within the veranda of the temple; the heptagonal placement and fascinating engineering behind the garden design allows the viewer to only see 14 rocks at most from any point around the structure.

These 5 groups of rock formations made up of 15 individuals is taken as the base structure of the instrumentation as well as the time flow as the piece features 15 instrumental forces which are grouped in various formations throughout the piece. With each section, these groups of 5 cumulative forces constantly changes to allow each force their equal time just like the perfect order among the rocks and encourages the listener to understand and the full ensemble which may never happen due to the formation of the parts.

There are five separate sections within the piece focusing on different ideologies. These sections are arranged respectively as; Wabi (which represents the beauty of simplicity and imperfections), Bushido (which is translated as *the way of the warrior*), Hanran (which is translated as *rebellion*), Ronin (which is a wandering warrior without a master) and Sabi (which represents the beauty that comes with age, the careful and artful mending of damage). Wabi-Sabi being an important philosophy of Buddhism, marks the beginning and ending phases of the piece while Bushido-Hanran-Ronin features the heavier textures and influences from the gagaku music repertoire.

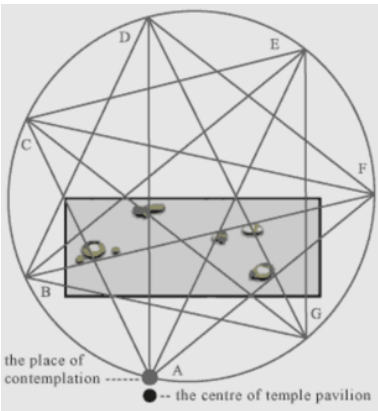
The pitch organization behind the piece uses modality both harmonically and melodically. Different modes from various musical traditions are used both in their original forms, as well as merged in order to capture different harmonic colors as it is one of the foremost aims behind Seyyah Trilogy.



Structure

Leading Instrumental Forces Concerning Each Section

As mentioned previously in the introduction, the piece inspires after the heptagonal equilibrium and balance of Ryōan-ji Rock Garden. Each instrumental force represents one of these 15 carefully placed rocks and collectively become the landscape groups of 5-3-3-2-2. As one would rotate around the garden, from each point of the invisible heptagonal edges, another group of rock formation would become more distinctive and that group would have the psychological dominance over the viewers sight perception. The aim of the sections ranging from A to F has a similar objective as in each section, different groups of instrumental forces become dominant within the texture, in order to capture the equilibrium among various instrumental timbres; just like the perfect balance behind the genius of Ryōan-ji.



Groupings of instrumental forces according to the Ryōan-ji heptagon is seen in the table below. Highlighted group(s) represents the dominant forces within each section. (Transition passages between the sections are not included.)



= Primary (Dominant) Texture

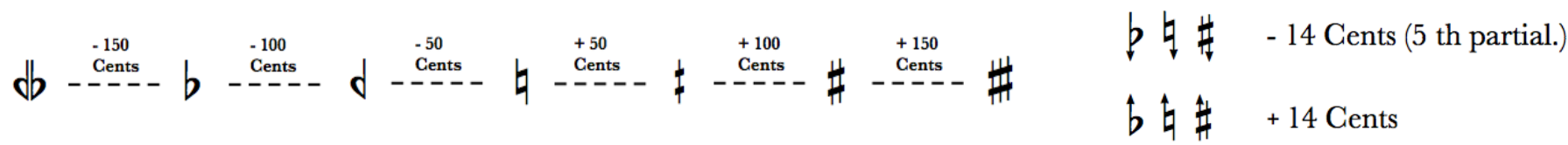


= Secondary Texture

Groups Sections	5	3	3	2	2	Section Characteristics
A	X	X	- Violin I - Violin II - Viola	- Percussion - Piano	- Violoncello - Contrabass	Wabi (Beauty in imperfections/simplicity.) - Introduction. - Melody in percussion.
B	- Violin I - Violin II - Viola - Violoncello - Contrabass	- Flute - Oboe - Clarinet	- Horn - Trumpet - Trombone	- Percussion - Piano	- Bassoon - Tuba	Wabi (Beauty in imperfections/simplicity.) - Harmonic texture in strings. - Trio movement amongst Fl/Ob/Cl.
C	- Bassoon - Horn - Trombone - Violoncello - Contrabass	X	- Violin I - Violin II - Viola	- Flute - Percussion	- Tuba - Piano	Bushido (The way of the warrior.) - Shivery & Tense atmosphere. - Sudden attacks in percussion. - Dissonant texture in strings inspired after gagaku music.
D	- Horn - Violin I - Violin II - Viola - Violoncello	- Flute - Oboe - Clarinet	- Bassoon - Trumpet - Percussion	- Piano - Contrabass	- Trombone - Tuba	Bushido (The way of the warrior.) - Piano texture similar to concerto writing. - Gradually heavy and agile texture builds up to section E; Hanran.
E	- Violin I - Violin II - Viola - Violoncello - Contrabass	- Oboe - Bassoon - Trumpet	- Horn - Trombone - Tuba	- Flute - Clarinet	- Percussion - Piano	Hanran (Rebellion.) -Heavy glissando texture (dominant in strings) inspired after gagaku music. -Melodic texture amongst woodwinds. -Forte section character.
F	- Violin I - Violin II - Viola - Violoncello - Contrabass	X	X	- Flute - Clarinet	- Percussion - Piano	Ronin (Warrior without a master.) - Harmonic texture amongst strings. - Flute & Clarinet duo.
G	X	- Flute - Clarinet - Percussion	- Violin I - Violin II - Violoncello	X	X	Sabi (Beauty that comes with age.) -Disappearing texture.

Notation

Microtones



General

Glissandi is indicated with headless stems throughout the duration of the action. This also indicates an equal gliding to the target note. Unless specified as portamento, always perceive as glissando.

Glissando; equal gliding to the target note.
Portamento; accelerating gliding close to the target note.

Arrow indicates transition from one action to another.
Dashed line indicates that the action is continued until specified otherwise.

Undetermined count of notes within the indicated duration.

Instinctive crescendo/decrescendo that is arranged by player for the dynamic needs of the music within the moment.

Woodwinds

Notice: *Flute* part is notated with resemblances from Japanese Shakuhachi flute practice.

Additional to the info stated in general notation;
Microtones: Unless specified with a fingering, always perform microtonal changes by bending, lip glissando etc.

Timbral embouchure differences are indicated as;

Normal Tone
Breathy
Very Breathy
Air Sound (indicated with a square note head)

Initial indicates staccato accents within single breath. Later indicates player so emphasize each note within a single breath. (Headless glissando stems also obliged to this rule.)

Initial indicates *double tonging*. Aim more of a percussive sound rather than individual perfect pitches. Later indicates *flutter tonging*.

Slap tongue is indicated as:  or 
Initial means the highest harmonic possible. Later means the highest note possible. A percussive sound is aimed rather than an exact pitch.

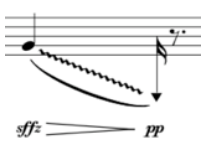
Brass

Additional to the info stated in general notation;
Microtones: Unless specified with a fingering, always perform microtonal changes by bending, lip glissando etc.

Timbral embouchure differences are indicated as;

Normal Tone
Air Sound (indicated with a square note head)

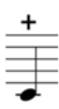
Flutter tonguing is indicated as: 
Highest note possible: A percussive sound is aimed rather than an exact pitch.

 Rapid and striking chromatic glissando to the lowest note in *tuba*. A percussive character is aimed.

Piano

Additional to the info stated in general notation;

There are two *clefs* used for the notation. A standard treble/bass clef and a percussion clef that indicates the registers to be used. The percussion clef is used for the actions inside the piano.

 Mute the string next to bridge firmly with your finger.
 = Key
 = Hitting the strings with the hand palm.
 = Cluster (on keys)

Percussion

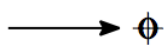
Additional to the info stated in general notation;

Percussion List:

- 3 Woodblocks (High, Middle and Low)
- Suspended Cymbal
- Thundersheet (in case of absence use Tam-Tam/Gong)
- Tam Tam/Gong
- Djembe (in case of absence a hand drum)
- Bass Drum
- Glockenspiel (without motor)

Beaters:

- 2 Soft Bass Drum Beaters 
- 3 Medium Marimba Mallets 
- 2 Contrabass Bows 
- 2 Chime Hammers 
- 1 Triangle Beater 
- 1 Superball Mallet 

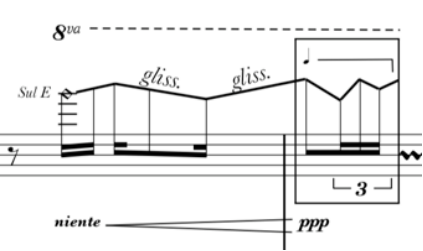
Gradually damp the sound. 

 Pull the bow towards yourself starting from the frog (or in the case of vibraphone, upwards).

 Pull the bow away from yourself starting from the tip (or in the case of vibraphone, downwards).

Strings

Additional to the info stated in general notation;



Glissandi within the upper harmonics (undetermined) of the indicated string. Keep the action throughout the wavy line with respect to dynamic values similar to the phrase within the box. As less bow changes as possible.

Notice: The important aspect is each instrument player, *regardless of their part or group*, should continue in an improvisatory style. One should not try to imitate or keep up with another player.

There are four levels of bow placement indicated as:

- Sul Tasto Ordinario** (Ord.)
- Sul Ponticello** (Sul Pont.)
- Molto Sul Ponticello** (Molto Sul Pont.)

Air Sound on string: Unless given a pitch, always mute the indicated string. If indicated with a pitch, use very low bow pressure around the sul tasto region in order to obtain the sound. 

String clef is used for actions performed on the strings regardless of pitch such as air sound, col legno battuto, ricochet etc. 

for sinfonietta
(transposed score)

A Wabi

$\frac{4}{4}$ ♩=60 Smooth

34

34

rit.

a tempo rit. **2/4**

Fl. *18* *3* *niente* *p* *ppp* *mf* *sfp* *ppp* *p* *pp* *mp* *sfp* *pp* *p* *niente*

Ob. *3* *ppp* *mf* *f* *pp* *mp* *ppp*

Cl. *3* *ppp* *mp* *ppp* *sfp* *niente*

Bsn.

Hn.

C Tpt.

Tbn.

Tba.

Perc. *3* *niente* *p* *Tam - Tam* *niente* *p*

Pno. *E4-E5* *E3-E4* *A1-A2* *A0-A1* *pp* *3* *mp* *pp* *mp* *p*

Vln. I *3* *pp* *mp* *sfp* *ppp* *sfp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *niente*

Vln. II *3* *niente* *p* *ppp* *pp* *mp* *ppp* *ppp* *mp* *sfp* *niente*

Vla. *Sul C.* *ppp* *p* *mp* *ppp* *sfp* *pp* *p* *sfp* *niente*

Vc. *niente* *p* *mp* *p* *3* *pp* *sfp* *ppp*

Cb. *5* *niente* *p* *niente*

Bass →
Drum

Transition To Bushido

4/4 **♩=88** **Aggressive**

rit.

Very Breathy Normal Tone Very Breathy Breathy Air Sound Normal Tone

Fl. 32 *fff* *mp* *sfz* *f* *ff* *p sfz p* *ff* *p* *sfz* *f* *ff* *pp* *mf* *ff*

Ob. *sfzp* *ppp* *mf* *ff* *pp* *f* *ppp* *sfzp* *mf* *ff*

Cl. *p* *mf* *pp* *f* *pp* *f* *mf* *pp* *ppp* *mf* *ff*

Bsn. *f* *pp* *mf* *p* *f* *ppp* *sfz* *mf* *ff*

Hn. *f* *p* *mf* *p* *f* *ppp* *mf* *ff*

C Tpt. *f* *pp* *niente* *f* *sfz* *pp* *f* *ppp* *mp* *ff*

Tbn. *f* *sfz* *mf* *sfz* *pp* *f* *p* *sfz* *mf* *ff*

Tba. *sfz* *pp* *pp* *f* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp* *ff*

Perc. (Tam-Tam) (Bass Drum) *sfz* *pp* *f* *pp* *ff* *mf* *pp* *mf* *f* *ppp*

Pno. (Cluster) *sfz* *f* *ff* *mf* *ff* *sfz* *mf* *ff*

4/4 **♩=88** **Aggressive**

rit.

Vln. I *ff* *mf* *f* *sfzp* *ff* *pp* *f* *sfzp* *ff*

Vln. II *ff* *mf* *f* *sfzp* *sfzp* *pp* *mf* *ppp* *f* *ff*

Vla. *Sul D* *sfzp* *pp* *Arco Battuto (Ricochet)* *sfz* *p* *pp* *sfzp* *f* *gliss.* *f*

Vc. *fast vib.* *non vib.* *Sul Pont.* *Ord.* *Sul Pont.* *Arco Battuto* *Sul D G* *gliss.* *mf*

Cb. *Arco Battuto (Ricochet)* *sfz* *p* *pp* *mp* *sfzp* *ppp* *f* *sfz* *p* *f* *sfzp* *mp* *ff*

C Bushido

♩=60 Shivery & Tense

Fl.

Normal Tone

36

p
subito

gliss.

niente

3

Ob.

sfz

Cl.

sfz

Bsn.

sfz

Hn.

C Tpt.

Mute Off →

Tbn.

sfz

pp

ppp

niente

Tba.

sfz

pp

niente

Perc.

fff

p

niente

pp

(Wipe around the surface)

Pno.

fff

8^{vb}

2^{ed}

A1-A2
A0-A1

p

♩=60 Shivery & Tense

Vln. I

Sul A

niente

pp

gliss.

gliss.

p

pp

3

Vln. II

Sul E

niente

pp

p

pp

3

Vla.

Col Legno
Battuto

fff

Col Legno
Battuto

Vc.

fff

Cb.

(Let Ring)

fff

[illegible]

Run through different valve combinations while imitating the sound of breeze/wind (Air Sound). Keep the action throughout the wavy line with respect to dynamic values.

The image displays a page from a musical score, likely for a symphony orchestra. The score is written for various instruments, including Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn (Hn.), Trumpet (C Tpt.), Trombone (Tbn.), Tuba (Tba.), Percussion (Perc.), Piano (Pno.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.).

The score is divided into measures, with time signatures (3/8, 4/4, 2/4, 3/8, 5/8, 3/8, 4/4) indicated above the staves. The music includes various notations such as notes, rests, dynamics (e.g., *pp*, *ff*, *mp*, *mf*, *f*, *fff*), and performance instructions (e.g., "Lip Gliss.", "Hand Gliss.", "Bow from the edge.", "Sul Pont.", "Col Legno Battuto").

The score is written for various instruments, including Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn (Hn.), Trumpet (C Tpt.), Trombone (Tbn.), Tuba (Tba.), Percussion (Perc.), Piano (Pno.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.).

D

[illegible]

The image displays a page from a musical score, likely for a symphony orchestra. The score is written for various instruments, including Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn (Hn.), Trumpet (C Tpt.), Trombone (Tbn.), Tuba (Tba.), Percussion (Perc.), Piano (Pno.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.).

The score is divided into measures, with large numbers indicating tempo and meter changes: 2/4, 3/8, 3/16, 2/4, 3/4, and 5/8. The music includes various notations such as notes, rests, dynamics (e.g., *sfz*, *pp*, *f*, *mp*, *ff*, *p*, *mf*), articulations (e.g., *Breathy*, *Air Sound*, *Double Tonguing*, *fast vib.*, *gliss.*, *Lip Pizz.*), and performance instructions (e.g., "Sculpt the side/edge with triangle beater", "Suspended Cymbal", "Thundersheet", "Djembe", "Bass Drum").

The score is written for various instruments, including Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn (Hn.), Trumpet (C Tpt.), Trombone (Tbn.), Tuba (Tba.), Percussion (Perc.), Piano (Pno.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.).

The image displays a page from a musical score, likely for a symphony orchestra. The page is divided into two systems, each featuring a large '3' and '2' at the top, indicating the time signature or measure count. The first system includes staves for Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn (Hn.), Trumpet (C Tpt.), Trombone (Tbn.), Tuba (Tba.), Percussion (Perc.), Piano (Pno.), and Cello/Double Bass (Cdb.). The second system includes staves for Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (Cb.). The score is written in a complex, modern style, featuring various musical notations such as notes, rests, dynamics (e.g., *niente*, *p*, *f*, *sfz*, *pp*, *mp*, *ff*), articulations (e.g., *gliss.*, *trill*, *double tonguing*), and performance instructions (e.g., *Air Sound*, *Breathy*, *Intonation with contrabass*, *Sul Pont.*, *Ord.*, *Molto Sul Pont.*). The percussion section includes a list of instruments: (Suspended Cymbal), (Thundersheet), (Djembe), (Bass Drum), and Woodblocks (High, Middle, Low). The piano part includes a list of instruments: (Suspended Cymbal), (Thundersheet), (Djembe), (Bass Drum), and Woodblocks (High, Middle, Low). The string parts include various performance instructions and dynamics. The overall style is highly detailed and complex, typical of a modern orchestral score.

[illegible]

15

34

17

[illegible]

3
4 ♩ = **88**

Violins I and II, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabasso. The score is in 2/4 time and features glissando passages for the strings. The first four measures show the initial glissando, and the last four measures show the final glissando. The score includes dynamic markings (mf, f, ff, fff, ppp) and articulation (gliss.).

F Ronin

4/4 ♩=60 Serene

Fl.

120

ff *mp* *niente*

mp *pp* *mp*

ppp *p*

pp *niente*

niente *mf*

Ob.

Cl.

ff *mp* *niente*

niente *mp* *p* *niente*

ppp *mf*

Bsn.

Hn.

p

pp *niente*

C Tpt.

Tbn.

f *mp* *niente*

Tba.

Perc.

Thundersheet

Vibraphone  x3

ff *pp* *ppp*

led. *p* *led.*

Pno.

A1-A2
A0-A1

fff

— until the sound dies

Vln. I

Ord.

p

mp *mf* *ppp* *p*

niente *p* *mp* *mf*

Vln. II

ff *mp* *niente* *p*

mp *mf* *p*

ppp *p*

niente *p* *mp* *mf*

Vla.

ff *mp* *niente*

niente *p* *mp* *ppp* *niente* *p* *niente*

Vc.

niente *p* *mf* *p*

Cb.

126

Fl. *Breathy* *Air Sound* *Breathy* *Air Sound* *Very Breathy* *Air Sound* *Breathy* *Air Sound* *Breathy*

Ob.

Cl. *Very Breathy* *(Very Breathy)* *Air Sound* *Very Breathy* *Breathy* *Air Sound* *Breathy*

Bsn.

Hn.

C Tpt.

Tbn.

Tba.

Perc. *pp* *niente*

Pno. *A1-A2* *A0-A1* *p* *ppp* *p* *mp* *ppp* *mp* *ppp* *mp* *ppp* *mp*

Vln. I *Ord.* *Sul Pont.* *Ord.* *Sul Pont.*

Vln. II *mf* *pp* *mf* *mp* *niente* *pp* *mf* *mp*

Vla. *Sul Pont.* *mf* *p* *pp* *mf* *p* *pp* *mf* *p* *mp*

Vc. *Sul Pont.* *Sul A* *mf* *p* *pp* *mf* *p* *mp* *Ord.* *Sul G* *3* *niente* *p* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp*

Cb. *niente* *pp* *mp* *mf*

Transition To Sabi

3
4

133

Fl. *slow vib.* *mp* *niente* *Air Sound*

Ob.

Cl. *mp* *niente* *Air Sound*

Bsn.

Hn. *niente* *pp* *p* *gliss.* *mf* *pp* *niente*

C Tpt.

Tbn. *niente* *p* *mp* *p* *mf* *pp*

Tba. *niente* *pp* *p* *pp* *ppp* *pp* *niente*

Perc. *pp* *Ped.*

Pno. *mf* *ppp* *p* *pp* *mp*

3
4

Vln. I *Sul Pont.* *Ord.* *mf* *p* *pp* *niente*

Vln. II *Sul Pont.* *Ord.* *mp* *p* *niente* *p* *ppp*

Vla. *Sul Pont.* *Ord.* *mf* *niente* *pp* *p* *mp* *p* *gliss.* *mf* *p*

Vc. *Sul Pont.* *Ord.* *mf* *p* *niente* *ppp* *mp* *p* *gliss.* *mf* *p* *f* *p*

Cb. *Ord.* *mp* *p* *niente* *niente* *pp* *p* *mp* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

44

G Sabi

$\frac{4}{4}$ (♩=60)

[illegible]

4/4 (♩=60)

rit.

Violin I Solo

Mute the strings until the end.

Air Sound ---- until the end.

Spring Bow -----

Violin II

Sul Tasto / non vib.

Unnoticeable bow changes.

Gradually disappear.

Viola

Ord. → Sul Tasto

Violoncello Solo

Mute the strings until the end.

Contrabasso

Ord. → Sul Tasto